

Great Controversy Series
True Transformation
Chapter 26 – A Work of Reform
Bible Sermon Study Notes: Cary Rodgers, Jr., pastor

What is true reformation and transformation personally, as a family, and church? What does it look like?

Romans 12:2

2 And be **not conformed to this world**: but be ye **transformed** by the **renewing of your mind**, that ye may **prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God**.

metamorphoō

Thayer Definition:

1) to change into another form, to transform, to transfigure

True reformation is NOT improvement, but total transformation in every area of your life mentally, physically, socially, and spirit. Every aspect of your life must go through this transformation.

1 Corinthians 10:31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

True reformation is total transformation through the power of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:17

17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Romans 6:6

6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth **we should not serve sin**.

Ephesians 4:22-24

22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation [Gk: behavior] the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

23 And be renewed [Gk: reformed] in the spirit of your mind;

24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in **righteousness and true holiness**.

Who was a Hebrew king that was prophesied about even before he was born that gave a practical example of a true transformation?

1 Kings 13:1-5

1 And, behold, there came a man of God out of Judah by the word of the LORD unto Bethel: and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense.

2 And he cried against the altar in the word of the LORD, and said, O altar, altar, thus saith the LORD; Behold, a child shall be born unto the house of David, Josiah by name; and upon thee shall he offer the priests of the high places that burn incense upon thee, and men's bones shall be burnt upon thee.

3 And he gave a sign the same day, saying, This is the sign which the LORD hath spoken; Behold, the altar shall be rent, and the ashes that are upon it shall be poured out.

4 And it came to pass, when king Jeroboam heard the saying of the man of God, which had cried against the altar in Bethel, that he put forth his hand from the altar, saying, Lay hold on him. And his hand, which he put forth against him, dried up, so that he could not pull it in again to him.

5 The altar also was rent, and the ashes poured out from the altar, according to the sign which the man of God had given by the word of the LORD.

Approximately 300 years later the prophecy was fulfilled!

2 Kings 22:1-2

1 Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty and one years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jedidah, the daughter of Adaiah of Boscath.

2 And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in all the way of David his father, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left.

2 Kings 23:14-20

14 And he brake in pieces the images, and cut down the groves, and filled their places with the bones of men.

15 Moreover the altar that was at Bethel, and the high place which Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin, had made, both that altar and the high place he brake down, and burned the high place, and stamped it small to powder, and burned the grove.

16 And as Josiah turned himself, he spied the sepulchres that were there in the mount, and sent, and took the bones out of the sepulchres, and burned them upon the altar, and polluted it, according to the word of the LORD which the man of God proclaimed, who proclaimed these words.

17 Then he said, What title is that that I see? And the men of the city told him, It is the sepulchre of the man of God, which came from Judah, and proclaimed these things that thou hast done against the altar of Bethel.

18 And he said, Let him alone; let no man move his bones. So they let his bones alone, with the bones of the prophet that came out of Samaria.

19 And all the houses also of the high places that were in the cities of Samaria, which the kings of Israel had made to provoke the LORD to anger, Josiah took away, and did to them according to all the acts that he had done in Bethel.

20 And he slew all the priests of the high places that were there upon the altars, and burned men's bones upon them, and returned to Jerusalem.

Prophecy fulfilled to the letter. The high places and groves were dedicated to sun worship! Josiah faithfully and practically had to get rid of the idolatry and worldliness high and low for a true reformation to take place.

Many people want revival with no reformation! Reformation does not happen without totally letting of the world and totally embracing Christ and keeping your hold upon Him!

What sparked the reformation at the time of King Josiah?

2 Kings 23:1-3

1 And the king sent, and they gathered unto him all the elders of Judah and of Jerusalem.

2 And the king went up into the house of the LORD, and all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem with him, and the priests, and the prophets, and all the people, both small and great: and he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant which was found in the house of the LORD.

3 And the king stood by a pillar, and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD, and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes with all their heart and all their soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people stood to the covenant.

Not only did Josiah read the covenant of God, law and testimonies, but he followed it up by action. This is what we MUST do in the last days.

Like Josiah, Nehemiah was called in his day to perform a true reformation that transforms lives among the people of God! Like in Josiah's day the great majority of the people were caught up in idolatry and sun worship! Many professed God, but at the same time rejected the Ten Commandments of God!

Not only did Nehemiah repair the broken down walls of Jerusalem, but he called for true reformation to restore the Ten Commandments in the minds of the people especially the fourth commandment concerning keeping the Seventh day Sabbath holy.

Repairers of the BREACH -Nehemiah Repairs physical wall

As a result of God's People Judah rebellion against God, God allowed Empire of Babylon take them captive and overthrow their beloved city of Jerusalem. Judah cast the "Truth" to the ground. Babylon destroyed their sacred temple and devastated their walls. After 70 years of captivity in Babylon. Many Jews returned to Jerusalem after Babylon was defeated by the Medes and the Persian. They first rebuilt the temple, but at the time of Nehemiah, the walls of the city were still in great ruins. The walls were not only for their protection, but it was a symbol of establishment and might. In the book of Nehemiah, God moved on Nehemiah to rally the people together to rebuild the wall. Even though he had much opposition. God gave him and others the power to complete the task in 52 days (Neh 6:15). They were focused on the truth.

We are called to be Nehemiah's in these last days to repair the broken down walls of truth, especially the fourth commandment, "remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.

What does God command us to do concerning this breach of the Ten Commandments of God?

Isaiah 58:1, 12 - 14

1 Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.

12 And *they that shall be* of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.

13 If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, *from* doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking *thine own* words:

14 Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken *it*.

The Sabbath Truth (4th commandment) is a Great blessing to man-kind.

In verse 12 God reveals that God will have "Nehemiah's" who will repair the a major breach in the WALL of Truth. Verse 13 reveals the breach. God holy Sabbath day. He reveals that God's Sabbath is HOLY and a delight. The blessing revealed here that all those who called the Sabbath a delight not doing your own ways nor doing your own pleasure, nor speaking on words will receive the promise of verse 14. The promise of verse 14 – Your relationship with God will be a delight and God will elevate your life in all aspects of your life to glorify God. You will receive the blessing of Jacob to be a blessing to ALL the world.

This is the great message that we are to give in the last days. We must repair this breach that Satan has attacked throughout the centuries and will continue until of time.

4th Commandment (say together)

Exodus 20:8-11

8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:

10 But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:
 11 For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

Who was Sabbath made for?

Mark 2:27 And he said unto them, **The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath:**

The sabbath was made to bless man with benefits that comes directly from God.... True prosperity...mentally physically, spiritually and financially. Sabbath was not made for the animals of creation, they go about doing their normal task instinctively the way God designed them seven days a week. Bees seven days a week go and pollinate and get honey. But those made in the image of God to reflect the character of God is given somethings special that no thing else in creation had the benefit of.. the Holy Sabbath Rest DAY

Why did God make this 7th Day Sabbath special for us?

Eze 20:12 Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign (mark/monument/proof) between me and them, that they might know that I *am* the LORD that sanctify them.

Eze 20:20 And hallow my sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I *am* the LORD your God.

Exo 31:13 Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it *is* a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that *ye* may know that I *am* the LORD that doth sanctify you.

The Sabbath is a sign or a monument (proof) of your loyalty and love toward your Savior and Creator God.

Joh 14:15 **If ye love me, keep my commandments.**

What day of the week is the true Bible Sabbath?

Exo 20:10) But the seventh day *is* the sabbath of the LORD thy God...

During creation God did not name the days, he numbered 1 – 7 with the seventh-day being a special week Holy Rest Day. Names were added by the Greeks and Romans who worshiped false gods. For example Sunday was named after the Sun god, Monday after the Moon god, Friday after the god of Venus, Saturday after the god of Saturn.

Thought questions: Do we still have a seven week cycle? Yes. Who made it? God. If God made it can man change it? No. Do you think that God would allow a special day like to weekly Sabbath to be lost or completely buried by man? No.

According a standard dictionary and calendar Saturday is the seventh-day of the week.

Since a day begins in the evening according to Bible the Sabbath begins from Sunset Friday to Sunset Saturday Confirmation...

- 1) Beginning of each day of creation evening and the morning were the first, second, third.... day
- 2) Remember Jesus died on preparation day, Friday, rested in His tomb Sabbath (seventh) and rose up early Sunday morning, the first day of the week.

Mark 16:9 Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils.

3) The Jews who have been around from centuries never lost track of the seven day week cycle. They honor the Sabbath beginning on sunset Friday until sunset Saturday.

4) The Sabbath is found in the names of over one hundred languages to represent the seventh-day of the week, Saturday. (show chart)

For example the word for the seventh day of week, Saturday in Spanish is "Sabado" which means Sabbath. In French the word for seventh day or Saturday is "Samedi" which means Sabbath. In Italian it's "Sabbato" which means Sabbath. And in Russian Saturday is "Subbota" which also means Sabbath.

Since the True Sabbath points to the true creator God. It Reveals True Worship. Do you think Satan would attack God's true worship and make a substitute? What warning does the Bible give?

2 Peter 2:1-3

1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

3 And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

Man of sin revealed = Papal Rome (Little Horn in Daniel chapters 7 and 8)

Daniel 7:25 And he shall speak *great* words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

The Papacy's False Sabbath is their "Mark" of authority

The papacy "think's to change the Sabbath

The Sabbath is a sign of your allegiance...

A) Truly keeping the seventh-day Sabbath involves a total reformation and totally letting go of the worldliness

B) False Sabbath, Sunday, man made commandment no reformation needed – majority

"Of course the Catholic Church claims that the change [of the Sabbath to Sunday] was her act. It could not have been otherwise, as none in those days would have dreamed of doing anything in matters spiritual and ecclesiastical and religious without her. And THE ACT IS A MARK of ecclesiastical power and authority in religious matters." - James Cardinal Gibbons, in a letter to J .F. Snyder of Bloomington, Illinois, dated November II, 1895, and signed by H.F. Thomas, Chancellor for the Cardinal

"Sunday is a Catholic institution, and... can be defended only on Catholic principles.... From beginning to end of Scripture there is not a single passage that warrants the transfer of weekly public worship from the last day of the week to the first." Catholic Press, Aug. 25, 1900

"The Sabbath was Saturday, not Sunday. The Church altered the observance of the Sabbath to the observance of Sunday. Protestants must be rather puzzled by the keeping of Sunday when God distinctly said, 'Keep holy the Sabbath Day.' The word Sunday does not come anywhere in the Bible, so, without knowing it they are obeying the authority of the Catholic Church." Canon Cafferata, The Catechism Explained, p. 89.

Papal Rome “Thinks to change”, but what did Jesus say? The great majority of the Christian world has united under the banner of the papacy false Sabbath.

Matthew 5:17

17 **Think not** that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

Remember the Sabbath question at the end of time has to do with true versus false worship! Who do you believe and where is your allegiance? Is your allegiance based on the Bible or the Word of God?

Notice: Remember, those who professed to keep the seventh-day Sabbath but still hold to worldliness in all practicality reject the true Sabbath.

Who does God call to be a repairer of the breach about the true Sabbath reformation and expose the false Sabbath set up by the papacy?

You! Humble people of God to be watchmen on the wall of Truth!

Ezekiel 33:7-9

7 So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me.

8 When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.

9 Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.

“God works through those who hear and obey His voice, those who will, if need be, speak unpalatable truths, those who do not fear to reprove popular sins. The reason why He does not oftener choose men of learning and high position to lead out in reform movements is that they trust to their creeds, theories, and theological systems, and feel no need to be taught of God. Only those who have a personal connection with the Source of wisdom are able to understand or explain the Scriptures. Men who have little of the learning of the schools are sometimes called to declare the truth, not because they are unlearned, but because they are not too self-sufficient to be taught of God. They learn in the school of Christ, and their humility and obedience make them great. In committing to them a knowledge of His truth, God confers upon them an honor, in comparison with which earthly honor and human greatness sink into insignificance.” GC 455.3

“The great obstacle both to the acceptance and to the promulgation of truth is the fact that it involves inconvenience and reproach. This is the only argument against the truth which its advocates have never been able to refute. But this does not deter the true followers of Christ. These do not wait for truth to become popular.” GC 460

Remember, what unites the image of the beast (apostate churches) to the beast of Revelation 13?

Sunday Sabbath.

It appears the great majority of those who profess to follow the Bible in reality follow man made traditions and the worship of Papal Rome.

The enforcement of the Sunday Sabbath is the mark of Papal Rome. It is the “mark” of the beast and the enforcement of the Sunday Sabbath is the mark of the beast crisis!

We cannot be shy about giving everybody this message! God is calling us to do this with GREAT urgency! The mark of the beast crisis is right upon us!

Study carefully

Revelation 13:3, 4, 11, 12, 15 - 17

3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.

4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

Revelation 13:11-12

11 And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.

12 And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

Revelation 13:15-17

15 And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:

17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

According Pope Leo XIII encyclical of November 7, 1885, he says, "Every Catholic should rigidly adhere to the teachings of the Roman pontiff, especially in the matter of modern liberty, which, already, under the semblance of honesty of purpose, leads to destruction. We exhort all Catholics to devote careful attention to public matters, and to take part in all municipal affairs and elections, and all public services, meetings, and gatherings. All Catholics must make themselves felt as active elements in daily political life in countries where they live. All Catholics should exert their power to cause the constitutions of states to be modeled on the principles of the true church." - Liberty, Second Quarter 1909, Volume 4, No. 2, Cardinal Gibbons' s Views on Church and State p.6

Prophecy updates...fast track to the Mark of the Beast Crisis!

Sunday law will be enforced soon...

"Let Church teaching pervade your work, Pope Francis tells Catholic politicians" Catholic News Agency

August 27, 2017

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/let-church-teaching-pervade-your-work-pope-francis-tells-catholic-politicians-97420/>

"Pope Francis received a group of Catholic lawmakers from around the world on Sunday, telling them their work must build bridges with others and bring Catholic teaching into public life."

"As long as the contribution of the Church to the great questions of society in our time can be put into discussion," he said, "it is vital that your commitment be constantly pervaded by her moral and social teachings, in order to build a more humane and just society."

“The laws that you promulgate and apply ought to build bridges between different political perspectives: even when they respond to precise ends ordered to the promotion of greater care for the defenseless and the marginalized, especially the many who are constrained to leave their countries; and when they are in order to favor a correct human and natural ecology,” said the Pope, according to Vatican Radio.

The lawmakers were in Rome for a meeting of the International Catholic Legislators Network. The network aims to bring together Catholic lawmakers to discuss common concerns and to share ideas about bringing their faith to their work.”

Pope: Catholic social teaching can contribute to building just society - Catholic News Service

<http://www.catholicnews.com/services/englishnews/2017/pope-catholic-social-teaching-can-contribute-to-building-just-society.cfm>

August 29, 2017

Catholic politicians should be guided by the church's moral and social teachings when crafting legislation, Pope Francis said.

Meeting with participants in the annual meeting of the International Catholic Legislators Network Aug. 27, the pope said that church teaching can contribute to a more humane and just society, but only if the church is allowed a voice in answering "the great questions of society in our time."

Founded in 2010 by Austrian Cardinal Christoph Schonborn of Vienna and British parliamentarian Sir David Alton, the Catholic Legislators Network meets annually "to discuss the promotion of Christian principles in the political arena," according to the organization's website.

"Every year, the network brings together about 120 people, including top-level politicians from a wide range of countries spanning all continents, to discuss urgent policy issues in different regions of the globe," the website said.

Ex-White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer Finally Meets Pope Francis

NPR

August 30, 2017

Former White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer, who is Roman Catholic, finally got his chance to meet Pope Francis.

Spicer was at the Vatican over the weekend as part of an annual meeting of the [International Catholic Legislators Network](#).

“Satan works through the elements also to garner his harvest of unprepared souls. He has studied the secrets of the laboratories of nature, and he uses all his power to control the elements as far as God allows. When he was suffered to afflict Job, how quickly flocks and herds, servants, houses, children, were swept away, one trouble succeeding another as in a moment. It is God that shields His creatures and hedges them in from the power of the destroyer. But the Christian world have shown contempt for the law of Jehovah; and the Lord will do just

what He has declared that He would--He will withdraw His blessings from the earth and remove His protecting care from those who are rebelling against His law and teaching and forcing others to do the same.” GC 589

Sunday national day of prayer, September 3, 2017

<https://www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/2017/september/texas-governor-sunday-will-be-a-day-of-prayer>

'God Is Our Refuge and Strength': President Trump Declares Sunday 'A National Day of Prayer'

September 1, 2017, CBNNews.com

- Referring Proclamation 4897—National Day of Prayer
February 12, 1982 - signed by Ronald Reagan: "Just 30 years ago, a Joint Resolution of the Congress requested the President to proclaim a day each year, other than a Sunday, as a National Day of Prayer, on which the people of the United States may turn to God in prayer and meditation in places of worship, in groups, and as individuals. Eight Presidents since then have annually proclaimed a Day of Prayer to the nation, resuming the tradition started by the Continental Congress."
<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=42169>

Poland's Catholic bishops call for Sundays off for all

Aleteia

August 24, 2017

<https://aleteia.org/2017/08/24/on-the-7th-day-we-should-all-rest/>

A referendum on "Free Sundays" for all Polish workers is expected next year

Poland's leading Catholic bishops have spoken out in support of establishing a ban on Sunday commerce. Speaking on Polish Radio, Archbishop Stanislaw Gadecki claimed "Free Sundays are what all Catholics, non-Catholics and non-believers need." The interview came before the upcoming meeting of the Bishops Conference, which is expected to support the proposal.

The vote is to take place in 2018 and since the movement has shown continued growth over the last few months, the "Free Sunday" initiative may well be passed. Labour Minister Elzbieta Rafalska acknowledges this, but suggests that it be introduced "in stages" if passed.